

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, US, UR, PARM

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT WILLIAM BEECHER FRONT PAGE BYLINER, BOSTON GLOBE, THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, HEADED "US OFFERS SOVIETS COMPROMISE PLAN TO BREAK SALT DEADLOCK."
2. IN A DETERMINED EFFORT TO ACHIEVE AN ARMS CONTROL BREAK-THROUGH, SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER IS OFFERING A COMPLEX COMPROMISE PROPOSAL THAT WOULD ALLOW EACH SIDE LIMITED AUTHORITY TO PROCEED WITH NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS.
3. WELL-PLACED SOURCES SAY KISSINGER YESTERDAY PROPOSED IN MOSCOW A FORMULA HANDLING THE SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER IN TWO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES AND AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILES IN TWO CATEGORIES AS WELL.
4. THE COMPROMISE REMAINS CONTROVERSIAL IN THE WASHINGTON ARMS CONTROL BUREAUCRACY DESPITE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF UNANIMITY.

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5. IN ONE EFFORT TO PLACATE PENTAGON LEADERS, KISSINGER

AGREED TO INCLUDE IN HIS MOSCOW PARTY--FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN A MAJOR NEGOTIATION OVERSEAS--A SENIOR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

CIVILIAN EXPERT, DR. JAMES P. WADE. IT IS BELIEVED THIS
WILL ESTABLISH A PATTERN, BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER WADE
WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE TALKS.

6. SOURCES SAY THE NEW US POSITION IN THE STRATEGIC ARMS
LIMITATION TALKS (SALT) WAS OUTLINED IN GENERAL TERMS BY
KISSINGER TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR ANATOLY DOBRYNIN LAST THURS-
DAY NIGHT TO GIVE SOVIET SPECIALISTS A FEW DAYS TO CONSIDER
THE NEW WRINKLES.

7. ON MONDAY, THE DAY BEFORE KISSINGER LEFT FOR MOSCOW,
A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS CALLED BY PRESI-
DENT FORD TO WORK OUT SOME SPECIFIC NUMBERS AND DEPLOYMENT
PATTERNS WHICH A DIVERSE CROSS-SECTION OF OFFICIALS COULD
ACCEPT, AND SUPPORT BEFORE CONGRESS, IF THE SALT TALKS
ARE SUCCESSFUL.

8. WELL-PLACED SOURCES SKETCH OUT THE NEW PROPOSALS IN
THESE TERMS:

9. THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE PERMITTED TO DEPLOY A MODEST
NUMBER OF BACKFIRE BOMBERS, PERHAPS 200 TO 300, WITHOUT
COUNTING THEM AGAINST THE CEILING OF 2400 STRATEGIC
WEAPONS AGREED TO AT VLADIVOSTOK IN 1974. IN THE PAST,
THE RUSSIANS HAVE ARGUED THAT THE 5000-MILE BACKFIRE
BOMBER WAS DESIGNED TO REPLACE AGING MEDIUM-RANGE BOMBERS
AND NAVAL RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT FOR MISSIONS IN AND
AROUND EUROPE AND CHINA.

10. THE SOVIETS WOULD BE BARRED FROM DEPLOYING THEM AT
NORTHERN BASES CLOSE TO THE US, FROM BUILDING UP A LARGE
FLEET OF AERIAL REFUELING TANKERS, AND FROM EXERCISING THE
PLANES ON MISSIONS SIMULATING AN ATTACK ON THE UNITED
STATES.

11. IF THE SOVIETS DECIDED TO BUILD MORE BACKFIRES, EACH
ADDITIONAL PLANE WOULD HAVE TO SUBSTITUTE FOR AN ICBM OR
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STRATEGIC BOMBER WITHIN THE 2400 CEILING.

12. THIS WOULD LIMIT THE POTENTIAL THREAT OF BACKFIRES
TO THE UNITED STATES, WHILE FORCING THE SOVIETS TO PAY A
PRICE FOR ANY LARGE-SCALE BUILDUP OF THE SWING-WING
AIRCRAFT. THE RUSSIANS CURRENTLY HAVE 50-60 BACKFIRES AND
ARE PRODUCING THEM AT A RATE OF TWO TO FOUR A MONTH.

13. ALSO UNDER THE PROPOSAL, THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO DEPLOY AIR-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES WITH A RANGE OF 1000 TO 2000 MILES (TO BE NEGOTIATED). BUT EACH B52 OR B1 BOMBER ARMED WITH 12 TO 20 SUCH MISSILES WOULD

HAVE TO TAKE THE PLACE OF A MULTIPLE WARHEAD ICBM AMONG THE 1320 ALLOWED EACH SIDE.

14. HOWEVER, SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES DESIGNED TO BE FIRED THROUGH TORPEDO TUBES WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO A RANGE OF ABOUT 360 MILES. THIS WOULD, IN EFFECT, PRECLUDE THE UNITED STATES FROM TRANSFORMING ITS LARGE FLEET OF TORPEDO-ARMED SUBMARINES INTO A NEW STRATEGIC MISSILE FORCE SINCE VERY FEW TARGETS IN THE SOVIET UNION LIE WITHIN 360 MILES OF THE COAST.

15. THE OVERALL EFFECT OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE TO LIMIT SOMEWHAT THE POTENTIAL THREAT POSED BY THE NEW BACK-FIRE, WHICH WORRIES THE PENTAGON, AND LIMIT THE NUMBER OF AIR-LAUNCH CRUISE MISSILES--SIMILAR TO VERY ACCURATE PILOT-LESS JET DRONE--WHICH WORRIES THE SOVIETS. THE AGREEMENT WOULD ALSO PROBABLY KILL THE NUCLEAR-TIPPED VERSION OF THE NAVY'S CRUISE MISSILE. THE NAVY IS ALSO INTERESTED IN A NON-NUCLEAR VERSION FOR POSSIBLE USE IN SUBMARINES AND ON SURFACE WARSHIPS AS AN ANTI-SHIPING MISSILE.

16. THE OVERALL SIZE OF THE STRATEGIC FORCES PERMITTED BOTH SIDES WOULD PROBABLY BE CRITICIZED BY THOSE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT WHO WANT A CUTBACK IN THE ARMS RACE.

17. TO PLACATE THESE CRITICS, THE ADMINISTRATION WANTS THE RUSSIANS TO AGREE TO START TALKS ON SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS AS SOON AS A SALT-2 TREATY IS RATIFIED. IT ALSO WANTS THEM UNCLASSIFIED

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TO AGREE IN THE CURRENT PHASE TO A MODEST REDUCTION BELOW 2400 TOWARD THE END OF THE 10-YEAR PERIOD OF THIS AGREEMENT. SUCH A REDUCTION MIGHT BE ABOUT 200 TO 300 MISSILES OR BOMBERS, SOURCES SAY.

18. CRITICS OF KISSINGER IN THE PENTAGON HAVE COMPLAINED FOR YEARS THAT IF HE HAD TAKEN A TOP DEFENSE SPECIALIST ON SOME OF HIS PAST NEGOTIATIONS ON SALT, VIETNAM AND THE MIDEAST, HE MIGHT HAVE AVOIDED SOME PITFALLS.

19. AFTER PRESIDENT FORD FIRED JAMES SCHLESINGER AND WILLIAM COLBY, SOURCES SAY, KISSINGER AND DEFENSE SECRETARY DONALD RUMSFELD AGREED THAT THE PENTAGON WOULD NO LONGER BE CLOSED OUT OF IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS.

20. WHEN ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER SHIMON PERES WAS IN WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER, JOSEPH SISCO, AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, ATTENDED THE PERES TALK WITH RUMSFELD, AND ROBERT ELLSWORTH, A DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ATTENDED THE PERES MEETING WITH KISSINGER.

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21. OFFICIALS SAY IF A BREAKTHROUGH IS ACHIEVED TODAY IN THE MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS, AN EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO WORK OUT TECHNICAL DETAILS OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS AND PRESENT THE NEW AGREEMENT TO CONGRESS THIS SPRING.

22. IF THE TALKS MOVE MORE SLOWLY, HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY DELAY OFFERING THE PACKAGE TO CONGRESS UNTIL AFTER THE NOVEMBER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. SOME ADMINISTRATION PLANNERS PREFER THIS ARRANGEMENT TO MINIMIZE THE EFFECT OF PARTISAN POLITICS ON SALT. OTHERS ARGUE THAT THE DETAILS WILL INEVITABLY LEAK OUT AND THE ADMINISTRATION COULD BE CHARGED WITH DEFERRING A CONGRESSIONAL JUDGMENT OUT OF FEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES GOT A BAD DEAL. (END TEXT) ROBINSON

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